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EXAMINER	
MENBERU, BENIYAM	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/729,426	NAGATA, YOSHINORI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Beniyam Menberu	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 December 2000*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-24* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *13-20,22* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-12,21,23 and 24* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *3/2/21/01*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

   I. Claims 1-12, 21, drawn to document management, classified in class 358, subclass 403.

   II. Claims 13-20,22, drawn to electronic transmission, classified in class 358, subclass 402.

2. During a telephone conversation with H. Warren Burnam, Jr. on 09/27/2004 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-12, 21. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 13-20,22 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

3. Claims 23 and 24 link(s) inventions I and II. The restriction requirement between the linked inventions is subject to the nonallowance of the linking claim(s), claims 23 and 24. Upon the allowance of the linking claim(s), the restriction requirement as to the linked inventions shall be withdrawn and any claim(s) depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) will be entitled to examination in the instant application. Applicant(s) are advised that if any such claim(s) depending from or including all the limitations of the allowable linking claim(s) is/are presented in a continuation or divisional application, the claims of the continuation or

divisional application may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Where a restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. *In re Ziegler*, 44 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 20, line 18, there is a missing term between "used" and "the".

On page 22, line 16, the phrase "determining section 13" does not match the phrase "Judging section 13" used in Figure 1.

On page 38, lines 11-12, it mentions "steps S1 through S7 shown in Fig. 2" but Fig. 2 does not show steps S1 through S7.

On page 39, line 3, it mentions "processes of S10 onward shown in Fig. 2" but Fig. 2 does not show "processes of S10 onward".

On page 46, line 4, it mentions "in S82" but there is no such step in the figures.

The step "S74" shown in Figure 22 is not described in the specification.

On page 51, line 23, the reference number 7 is referred to with the name "connections terminal device" when it is referred to "communications terminal device" in Figure 16.

On page 58, line 22, there is misspelling for the term "lien".

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1,2, 3, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5887088 to Kurokawa et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5877963 to Leung et al.

Regarding claims 1, Kurokawa et al disclose a document management device, comprising:

a memory section for storing a document to which an identification number is given (Kurokawa et al disclose an apparatus which inputs document request and outputs documents stored in a hard disk (column 10, lines 66-67) with identification (In figure 3, the "FormID" term corresponds to an identification of the document stored in the hard disk)

an input section for receiving an image including said identification number (In figure 1, Kurokawa et al disclose an apparatus for receiving document request (Figure 1, reference 31)),

a control section made up of an extract section for extracting said identification number (Kurokawa et al discloses an extraction apparatus that extracts ID information from the document request form (column 12, lines 12-21)), a document obtainer section

for searching and obtaining a document having said identification number which was extracted by said extract section out of documents stored in said memory section (Kurokawa discloses an I/D Output Portion (Figure 1, reference 32), that outputs the requested document),

and an output section for outputting the document obtained by said document obtainer section when said judging section judges it to be correct (In Figure 1, the I/D output portion (Figure 1, reference 32) and the fax modem (Figure 1, reference 14) are used to output documents.)

However, Kurokawa et al does not disclose an input section for receiving summary information of the document and a judging section for judging as to whether the summary information extracted by said extract section is correct with respect to the document obtained by said document obtainer section.

Leung et al disclose an apparatus for generating summary information of the document and a judging section for judging as to whether the summary information extracted by said extract section is correct with respect to the document obtained by said document obtainer section. (Leung et al disclose a method of generating "feature vector" of a document (column 3, lines 39-42) and a method of comparing "feature vector" with other documents to find a match (column 10, lines 53-67). Thus the feature vector taught by Leung et al can be used as part of the input to locate documents.)

Kurokawa et al and Leung et al are combinable because they are in the same problem area of document management.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the method of using summary information as taught by Leung et al into the input system of Kurokawa et al for the purpose of requesting a document.

The motivation to combine the reference is clear because Leung et al teaches that finding documents with similar features can be useful to organizing and filing of documents (column 1, lines 13-16).

Regarding claim 2, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al teach all the limitations of claim 1, and Kurokawa et al discloses an input section receives an image which was transmitted from an external device which is connected via a communications network, and said output section transmits the document which was obtained by said document obtainer section to said external device (In figure 1, there is an external fax 16 that communicates both ways with the device of Kurokawa et al.).

Regarding claim 3, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al teach all the limitations of claim 1, and Leung et al further disclose a summary information wherein: said summary information is at least a partial image of its corresponding document (Leung et al disclose an apparatus wherein images of a document are scanned and a processor analyzes sections of the image to form a "feature vector" of the document which can be used for comparison (column 3, lines 44-46, 51-67; column 4, lines 1-2)), and when an image which coincides with the summary information extracted by said extract section exists in the document obtained by said document obtainer section, said judging section judges it to be correct (The processor discloses by Leung et al performs comparison using the feature vector and previous documents to find a match (column 4, lines 8-20)).

Regarding claim 21, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al disclose a recording medium which stores a document management program for controlling the process of the device of claim 1. (Kurokawa et al disclose an apparatus as shown in Figure 1 which contains a personal computer (Figure 1, reference 3) connected to the system implying that it has to be programmed. Leung et al disclose that a computer program can process the steps of determining summary information of documents (column 12, lines 13-20)).

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5887088 to Kurokawa et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5877963 to Leung et al further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6011634 to Aihara et al.

Regarding claim 4, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al teach all the limitations of claim 1.

However, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al does not teach that when said document obtainer section fails to obtain the corresponding document, said output section carries out output indicative of absence of the corresponding document in said memory section.

Aihara et al disclose a facsimile system wherein when said document obtainer section fails to obtain the corresponding document, said output section carries out output indicative of absence of the corresponding document in said memory section (Aihara et al disclose a document transmission system which outputs error message when document that is about to be deleted can not be found on the disk (column 22, lines 60-65)).

Kurokawa et al, Leung et al, and Aihara et al are combinable because they are in the same problem area of document management.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the error communication taught by Aihara et al into the combined system of Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al.

The motivation to combine the reference is clear because it is necessary to have a way to communicate errors to the user of the document management device.

5. Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5887088 to Kurokawa et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5877963 to Leung et al further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6628412 to Jeran et al.

Regarding claim 5, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al teach all the limitations of claim 1, however Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al does not disclose a document management device wherein said inputted image includes information indicative of a version of a document.

Jeran et al disclose an document management system wherein said inputted image includes information indicative of a version of a document (The system of Jeran et al disclose a method wherein the version number of a document is printed on a document so that the version number can be scanner and used for tracking of the document (column 2, lines 58-66). Thus version number information can be appended to the input image using the teachings of Jeran et al.).

Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al and Jeran et al are combinable because they are in the same problem area of document management.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the version number inputting method of Jeran et al into the combined system of Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al.

The motivation to combine the reference is clear because version number is useful for managing multiple copies of an original document due to multiple editions.

Regarding claim 6, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al teach all the limitations of claim 1, Jeran et al further discloses a memory section wherein said memory section stores a document of at least one version among documents having the same identification number (Jeran et al disclose a database wherein documents can have multiple version numbers (column 3, lines 34-41). Since Kurokawa et al use identification for documents, the combination can generate documents with multiple versions of a document with an identification number).

Regarding claim 7, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al further in view of Jeran et al teach all the limitations of claim 6, Kurokawa et al further discloses an inputting system wherein: said control section judges presence or absence of a predetermined mark in said inputted image (Kurokawa et al disclose an input system wherein users can mark items on input forms which are later detected by an analyzing section (column 9, lines 38-43, lines 58-62)). Jeran et al discloses an apparatus wherein said output section outputs a document having a latest version out of the documents obtained by said document obtainer section (The processor in the system of Jeran et al (Figure 1, reference 16) can be implemented to output the latest version of a document (column 6, lines 17-21).). The combination of Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al and Jeran et al

can be configured to output the latest version of a document when a predetermined mark is detected in the inputting system of Kurokawa et al.

Regarding claim 8, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al further in view of Jeran et al teach all the limitations of claim 6, Jeran et al further disclose a control section wherein: said control section judges presence or absence of version information in said inputted image, and when said control section judges presence of the version information in said inputted image, said output section outputs a document of a designated version out of the documents obtained by said document obtainer section (The system of Jeran et al uses version number to track documents wherein the version number is placed on the document which is to be scanned. (column 2, lines 59-65). The processor can be configured to output other versions to be output (column 6, lines 14-17)).

Regarding claim 9, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al teach all the limitations of claim 1, Jeran et al further disclose a control section wherein: said control section further includes an approval section for judging presence or absence of correct approval information in said inputted image, and when said approval section judges absence of the correct approval information in said inputted image, output from said output section is prohibited (Jeran et al disclose a machine-code that is printed on document that can be used for authorization purpose (column 4, lines 66-67; column 5, lines 1-9)).

Regarding claim 10, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al further in view of Jeran et al teach all the limitations of claim 9, Jeran et al further disclose that document which is stored in said memory section includes said approval information (Jeran et al

disclose a processor that can compare authorization information with information present on database (column 5, lines 13-18) which implies that the database has comparable information to the authorization information).

Regarding claim 11, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al further in view of Jeran et al teach all the limitations of claim 9, Jeran et al further disclose that when said inputted image includes predetermined information together with the approval information, output from said output section is prohibited (Jeran et al disclose that identification code entered by user will be inputted together with data from machine-code on the scanned document to determine whether user is authorized to generate output on the system (column 5, lines 8-18)).

Regarding claim 12, Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al further in view of Jeran et al teach all the limitations of claim 9, Jeran et al further disclose that when said approval section judges absence of the correct approval information in said inputted image, said output section carries out output indicative of absence of the correct approval information (Jeran et al disclose that when it detects unauthorized request, it disables copying of documents. Thus the disabling of the copying is an output indicative to the user that he is not authorized.).

6. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5887088 to Kurokawa et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5877963 to Leung et al further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5293256 to Fukushima et al further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5638433 to Bubien, Jr. et al.

Kurokawa et al disclose a document management device, comprising:

a memory section for storing a document to which an identification number is given (Kurokawa et al disclose an apparatus which inputs document request and outputs documents stored in a hard disk (column 10, lines 66-67) with identification (In figure 3, the "FormID" term corresponds to an identification of the document stored in the hard disk)

an input section for receiving an image including said identification number (In figure 1, Kurokawa et al disclose an apparatus for receiving document request (Figure 1, reference 31)),

a control section made up of an extract section for extracting said identification number (Kurokawa et al discloses an extraction apparatus that extracts ID information from the document request form (column 12, lines 12-21)) , a document obtainer section for searching and obtaining a document having said identification number which was extracted by said extract section out of documents stored in said memory section (Kurokawa discloses an I/D Output Portion (Figure 1, reference 32), that outputs the requested document),

and an output section for outputting the document obtained by said document obtainer section when said judging section judges it to be correct (In Figure 1, the I/D output portion (Figure 1, reference 32) and the fax modem (Figure 1, reference 14) are used to output documents.)

However, Kurokawa et al does not disclose an input section for receiving summary information of the document and a judging section for judging as to whether the summary information extracted by said extract section is correct with respect to the

document obtained by said document obtainer section. Further, Kurokawa does not disclose a communications terminal device which includes: an image reader section for reading a document image out of a document; a control section having a line number extractor section for extracting a plurality of line numbers of document management devices to be connected to a line out of the document image which was read out by said image reader section, and a line number selector section for selecting a line number for connection from the plurality of line numbers extracted by said line number extractor section; and an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image which was read out by said image reader section with respect to a document management device to be connected to the line, wherein, when said line number extractor section extracts a plurality of line numbers of external devices to be connected to a line out of said document image, said line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, by making a comparison between the plurality of line numbers extracted and a line number of the transmitting end.

Leung et al disclose an apparatus for generating summary information of the document and a judging section for judging as to whether the summary information extracted by said extract section is correct with respect to the document obtained by said document obtainer section. (Leung et al disclose a method of generating "feature vector" of a document (column 3, lines 39-42) and a method of comparing "feature vector" with other documents to find a match (column 10, lines 53-67). Thus the feature vector taught by Leung et al can be used as part of the input to locate documents.)

Fukushima et al disclose a communications terminal device, comprising: an image reader section for reading a document image out of a document (Fukushima et al disclose a reading section which reads an input card containing fax numbers (Figure 1, reference 20).); a control section having a line number extractor section for extracting a plurality of line numbers of external devices to be connected to a line out of the document image which was read out by said image reader section (Fukushima et al disclose an OCR section that searches for fax numbers on cards (Figure 1, reference 67; column 12, lines 33-40)), and a line number selector section for selecting a line number for connection from the plurality of line numbers extracted by said line number extractor section (Fukushima et al provides for selection of a number either by manual entry or by automated selector (column 14, lines 63-68; column 15, lines 1-13)); and an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image which was read out by said image reader section with respect to an external device connected to the line (The Network Control Unit (NCU) (Figure 4, reference 78) performs the task of sending the image through a fax line (column 10, lines 54-66; column 11, lines 19-23)).

Bubien, Jr. et al disclose a communications terminal device wherein, when said line number extractor section extracts the plurality of line numbers of the external devices to be connected to a line out of said document image, said line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, by making a comparison between the plurality of line numbers extracted and a line number of the transmitting end (Bubien, Jr. et al disclose a device that selects an access number from

a plurality of numbers when it detects an incoming number, wherein it uses the area code of the incoming number to perform the selection (column 3, lines 54-65)).

Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al further in view of Fukushima et al further in view of Bubien, Jr. et al are combinable because they are in the same problem area of document image transmission.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the document management device of Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al with the communication device of Fukushima et al in view of Bubien, Jr. et al to implement a document management system.

The motivation to combine the reference is clear because in order to obtain documents in remote location, it is necessary to communicate request over a network using the combination stated above.

7. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5887088 to Kurokawa et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5877963 to Leung et al further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5293256 to Fukushima et al further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5638433 to Bubien, Jr. et al further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6356541 to Müller et al.

Kurokawa et al disclose a document management device, comprising:

a memory section for storing a document to which an identification number is given (Kurokawa et al disclose an apparatus which inputs document request and outputs documents stored in a hard disk (column 10, lines 66-67) with identification (In figure 3,

the "FormID" term corresponds to an identification of the document stored in the hard disk)

an input section for receiving an image including said identification number (In figure 1, Kurokawa et al disclose an apparatus for receiving document request (Figure 1, reference 31)),

a control section made up of an extract section for extracting said identification number (Kurokawa et al discloses an extraction apparatus that extracts ID information from the document request form (column 12, lines 12-21)) , a document obtainer section for searching and obtaining a document having said identification number which was extracted by said extract section out of documents stored in said memory section (Kurokawa discloses an I/D Output Portion (Figure 1, reference 32), that outputs the requested document),

and an output section for outputting the document obtained by said document obtainer section when said judging section judges it to be correct (In Figure 1, the I/D output portion (Figure 1, reference 32) and the fax modem (Figure 1, reference 14) are used to output documents.)

However, Kurokawa et al does not disclose an input section for receiving summary information of the document and a judging section for judging as to whether the summary information extracted by said extract section is correct with respect to the document obtained by said document obtainer section. Further, Kurokawa does not disclose a communications terminal device which includes: an image reader section for reading a document image out of a document; a control section having a line number

extractor section for extracting a plurality of line numbers of document management devices to be connected to a line out of the document image which was read out by said image reader section, and a line number selector section for selecting a line number for connection from the plurality of line numbers extracted by said line number extractor section; and an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image which was read out by said image reader section with respect to a document management device to be connected to the line, wherein, when said line number extractor section extracts a plurality of line numbers of external devices to be connected to a line out of said document image, said line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, by making a comparison between the plurality of line numbers extracted and a line number of the transmitting end. Further, Kurokawa does not disclose a memory section for storing a communications cost table in which communications charges per unit time for connecting the line are classified based on the line numbers and wherein, when said line number extractor section extracts the plurality of line numbers of the external devices to be connected to the line out of said document image, said line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, using the communications cost table stored in said memory section.

Leung et al disclose an apparatus for generating summary information of the document and a judging section for judging as to whether the summary information extracted by said extract section is correct with respect to the document obtained by said document obtainer section. (Leung et al disclose a method of generating "feature

vector" of a document (column 3, lines 39-42) and a method of comparing "feature vector" with other documents to find a match (column 10, lines 53-67). Thus the feature vector taught by Leung et al can be used as part of the input to locate documents.)

Fukushima et al disclose a communications terminal device, comprising: an image reader section for reading a document image out of a document (Fukushima et al disclose a reading section which reads an input card containing fax numbers (Figure 1, reference 20).); a control section having a line number extractor section for extracting a plurality of line numbers of external devices to be connected to a line out of the document image which was read out by said image reader section (Fukushima et al disclose an OCR section that searches for fax numbers on cards (Figure 1, reference 67; column 12, lines 33-40)), and a line number selector section for selecting a line number for connection from the plurality of line numbers extracted by said line number extractor section (Fukushima et al provides for selection of a number either by manual entry or by automated selector (column 14, lines 63-68; column 15, lines 1-13)); and an image transmitter section for transmitting the document image which was read out by said image reader section with respect to an external device connected to the line (The Network Control Unit (NCU) (Figure 4, reference 78) performs the task of sending the image through a fax line (column 10, lines 54-66; column 11, lines 19-23)).

Bubien, Jr. et al disclose a communications terminal device wherein, when said line number extractor section extracts the plurality of line numbers of the external devices to be connected to a line out of said document image, said line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, by making

a comparison between the plurality of line numbers extracted and a line number of the transmitting end (Bubien, Jr. et al disclose a device that selects an access number from a plurality of numbers when it detects an incoming number, wherein it uses the area code of the incoming number to perform the selection (column 3, lines 54-65)).

Müller et al disclose a transmission device which contains a memory section for storing a communications cost table in which communications charges per unit time for connecting the line are classified based on the line numbers (Müller et al disclose a memory section wherein the fee data for corresponding providers are stored (column 8, lines 58-61).) and wherein, when said line number extractor section extracts the plurality of line numbers of the external devices to be connected to the line out of said document image, said line number selector section selects one line number from the plurality of line numbers extracted, using the communications cost table stored in said memory section (Müller et al disclose a selection device (Figure 1, reference 4) which selects a provider using the fee information stored in the memory (Figure 1, reference 7,8; column 8, lines 58-65).

Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al further in view of Fukushima et al further in view of Bubien, Jr. et al further in view of Müller et al are combinable because they are in the same problem area of document management.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the document management device of Kurokawa et al in view of Leung et al with the communication device of Fukushima et al in view of Bubien, Jr.

et al further in view of Müller et al to implement a document management system which transmits documents with minimum cost.

The motivation to combine the reference is clear because in order to obtain documents in remote location at a low cost of transmission, it is necessary to communicate request over a network using the combination stated above.

Other Prior Art Cited

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 5878121 to Nakanishi discloses an apparatus to find lowest toll call.

U.S. Patent No. 4813078 to Fujiwara et al discloses a character recognition device.

U.S. Patent No. 4975783 to Takaoka discloses facsimile device which can correct errors.

U.S. Patent No. 6512593 to Yashiki discloses a relay internet facsimile system.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beniyam Menberu whose telephone number is (703) 306-3441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

Patent Examiner

Beniyam Menberu
BM
09/30/2004

KAWilliams
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER